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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,426	12/20/2001	Mitsuo Soumi	Q67094	2336

7590 11/04/2004

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EXAMINER

HERNANDEZ, NELSON D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,426

Applicant(s)

SOUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 8-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date June 18, 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, US 2002/0071035 A1.

Regarding claim 1, Sobol discloses a cradle (Fig. 1: 150) for a digital camera (Fig. 2) provided with connecting terminals (Figs. 2: 14 and 2: 24) of a first plurality of kinds, the cradle comprising: a retainer (Fig. 1: 152) for retaining therein a digital camera; a shield (Fig. 1: 154) formed at the retainer; and terminals (Figs. 1: 162 and 1: 170) including, wherein, when the digital camera is set in the cradle, the shield shields, of the connecting terminals of the first plurality of kinds, connecting terminals that are of the same kinds as the connecting terminals of the second plurality of kinds (Page 2, ¶ 0024 and ¶ 0025; page 3, ¶ 0031). Sobol does not explicitly disclose that the terminal is a composite terminal including integratedly formed connecting terminal of a second plurality of kinds.

However, Official Notice is taken that the use of terminals having integratedly formed connecting terminals of a second plurality of kind (i.e. USB that can transmit power and data through the same terminal) is notoriously well known at the time of the invention and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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the invention was made to modify Sobol by having a terminal having integratedly formed connecting terminals of a second plurality of kind (i.e. USB) with the motivation of minimize the amount of terminals in the cradle.

3. Claims 2, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, US 2002/0071035 A1 in view of applicant admitted prior art.

Regarding claim 2, Sobol discloses that the connecting terminals that are shielded by the shield include a charging terminal (Fig. 1: 162) (Page 2, ¶ 0024 and ¶ 0025, page 2, ¶ 0031). Sobol does not explicitly disclose an external device connecting terminal. However, applicant admitted prior art teaches a camera connected to a cradle, wherein said camera includes connecting terminals (USB connector for transmitting data in fig. 8: 214 and power connector in fig. 8: 212) that are shielded by a shield (Fig. 8: 202B) (Page 1, ¶ 0005).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Sobol in view of applicant admitted prior art as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Sobol by having an external device connecting terminal. The motivation to do so would help the camera to transmit data to an external device (i.e. a computer, printer, etc.).

Regarding claim 3, grounds for rejecting claim 1, apply here.

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Sobol in of applicant admitted prior art teaches that the digital camera further includes an AV terminal (See fig. 8 above USB connector 206), and the shield does not shield the AV terminal when the digital camera is set in the retainer (See fig. 8; page 1, ¶ 0005 and ¶ 0006).

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Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-6 and 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (703) 305-8717. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NDHH
October 27, 2004

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2612


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600